

Submitter: Nora H.

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Natural Resources

Measure, Appointment or SB5521
Topic:

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and Levy, and Members of the Committee:

As our public and private lands have started to disappear habitats for fish and wildlife over the decades, I strongly urge you to vote in support of this measure. The science coming out on the depletion of our biodiversity means that we need to act strongly and swiftly to counteract these unsettling trends.

The Private Forest Accord (PFA) was a landmark agreement regarding Oregon's logging rules on private forestlands. Thirteen timber industry representatives and 13 conservation and fishing groups came together to negotiate broad reforms to state law. It provides significant new protections for fish, stream-dwelling amphibians, wildlife in the forests adjacent to streams, for cold clean water, and for the people who rely on these resources.

A key part of the agreement calls for the state of Oregon to get a federally approved Habitat Conservation Plan across more than 10 million acres of private forestlands.

However, without a federally approved Private Forest Accord Habitat Conservation Plan by 2027, the new rules roll back entirely to the outdated standards.

Please support full funding in the Oregon Department of Forestry's budget (SB 5521) for two critical PFA programs. The SFISH grant program for small forestland owners should be fully funded at \$10 million and the Adaptive Management Program designed to evaluate the effectiveness of the new rules should be fully funded at \$6 million.

Thanks for your consideration,
Nora